

SOUTHWEST REGION HURRICANE RITA UPDATE OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 – 1700 HOURS

PERSONNEL STATUS:

Number of employees assigned to the team: 69 FWS – 1 USFS

Until further notice, Central Command briefings at 0845 and the conference calls at 0900 will continue between the Regional Office, the Incident Command Team and those Field Stations that received direct impact from the Hurricane.

Employees must make requests for assistance through the Team who will then place the request to the Hurricane Rita Dispatch Desk for coordination. All personnel support, boats, vehicles, equipment and supplies are to be requested and assigned through the system.

A Critical Stress Debriefing unit has been ordered. Employees needing immediate assistance can call a counselor at 1-800-222-0364 24-hours a day. The Employees Assistance Program for this incident will be expanded to include assistance with insurance claims.

COSTS TO DATE: About \$15 million in damages

General Updates:

- Upper Texas Coast Refuges are closed to the public
- Facilities and locations of temporary housing task is complete
- Fuel shortages continue
- Memo to Service employees was sent today regarding ways they can assist those impacted by Katrina in R-4 and Rita in R-4 and R-2

SOUTHWEST REGION T-3 COMMAND TEAM DAILY REPORT 9/30/05

PHONE LINES FOR ICP: 281-573-4513 or 4514

FAX WITH COVER SHEET TO: 281-573-1823

T-3 Incident Action Plan (IAP) for September 30, 2005 :

- Team preparing for closeout on Sunday
- Wrapping up task lists

September 29

- No accidents to date
- Temporary housing (trailer) sites for displaced refuge employees were secured
- Eight industrial fans received late in the day
- Updated emergency accesses road clearing figures for Anahuac, Tex and Chambers Mid-county (conducted September 25) = 58 miles
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Department has need for law enforcement assistance and will communicate need to County EOC; this may be an inroad into Jefferson County recognition/requests for FWS emergency access assistance (we've heard repeatedly that the access needs in Jefferson County still exist)
- Heavy vehicle traffic continues as evacuees return home to Gulf Coast communities
- Prepared and distributed 5 news releases – one general news release and four targeted at each state media markets within Region 2

McFaddin NWR and Port Arthur, TX

Accomplishments:

- Per City request, provided emergency access clearing of 1.5 miles of roads, 69 driveways, and removal of 27 hazard trees at City Park in Port Arthur (West side of Memorial Drive, Keystone, Ozark, Tyler, 33rd-36th Street)
- Secured broken windows (plywood) at Rose Hill Manor Historic House
- Accessed needs at Region 4 employee's house (branches had been removed and tarp placed on holes)
- Fed and watered 12 dogs (some roaming dogs left behind evacuation are becoming aggressive)
- Assessed operational condition of refuge fire engines (2 operational, 1 has a broken brake line (pre-storm))
- Generator power points installation completed (will be completed tomorrow morning)

Updated damage assessment:

- Clam Lake Road wood plank bridge – plank damage
- No power at office – water damage needs to be tended to before mold becomes an issue – need generators to operate existing air conditioner or acquire and install dehumidifiers, fans or window air conditioners
- Storm caused coastal erosion issues assessed – needs immediate riprap work

Texas Point NWR

Accomplishments:

- Conducted follow up status assessment

Updated damage assessment:

- Much debris remains on fences (boats, tanks, house trailers)

Trinity River NWR

- Trinity River has power and opening trail for hunters

Accomplishments:

- Team members were assigned to work at other stations

Updated damage assessment:

- Handicapped trail access needs to be restored (two days of sawyer work)

Anahuac NWR and Anahuac, TX:

Accomplishments:

- West Line Road and cross road access limited due to debris and holes
- New shop overhead door damage assessed
- Generator power point needs assessed
- Scouted work for tomorrow
- Cleared branches from 3 miles of fence line to exclude cattle from refuge
- Cleared debris from ½ mile of trails
- Cleared fallen trees from volunteer pads

- Assessed damage East Bay Bayou and Galveston overlooks
- Inspected roof at machinery shop – could not access roof vent
- Covered visitor center roof with plastic
- Assessed condition of concrete building across from hunt check station and cleaned gutters

Updated damage assessment:

- New shop overhead door damage assessed
- Damage to East Bay Bayou and Galveston overlooks
- Roller doors on main shop are off tracks in down position
- minor roof damage on concrete building across from hunt check station

Law Enforcement Emergency Assistance (summary report to-date):

- The Law Enforcement Division has been divided into three main groups to address the needs of the ICT.
- The Security Group was assigned to provide security at the ICP and at the hotel for employee safety.
- The SORT Team was assigned to the Chambers County Sheriff's Office for special details and to augment patrols throughout the county.
- A Law Enforcement Group has been assigned to patrol the local area refuges.
- Since arrival, the L/E Division has been party to an average of 150+ calls for service per day. These calls have included assaults, welfare checks, damaged property, alarms and thefts.
- Contacts have included;
 - 2 emotional disturbed persons. One who posed a threat to hospital staff and one brandishing a baseball bat threatening the public.
 - 1 suicide attempt.
 - Numerous motorist assists (flat tires, etc.)
 - Looting prevention.
 - High visibility patrols at shelters, food distribution points and stores.
 - Undercover work with price gouging at stores.
 - Numerous burglary alarm responses.
 - 2 traffic accidents (COW vs TRUCK, HORSE vs TRUCK).
 - Interdiction of a fistfight at the FWS employee hotel.
 - Escort of saw crews in the community.
- SORT Team members also provided vehicles to the Sheriff's department as their patrol vehicles started breaking down during this incident.
- The SORT provided 9 patrol officers for the 26 deputy force (FWS has been providing 1/3 of the total LE personnel for the county)

END OF REPORT

INFORMATION ACCESS:

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS COUNSELORS CAN BE REACHED 24-HOURS AT:

1-800- 222-0364

INTERNET:

Anyone seeking information on Hurricane Rita may do so via these Service links:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/> <http://www.fws.gov/>

R-2 HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION/DISPATCH DESK:

Employees can reach the Southwest Region's Command Center's Hurricane Rita Emergency Information Desk by e-mail or text messaging at: hurricanerita@fws.gov

TELEPHONE:

The Emergency Information and resources Dispatch Desk is being staffed at the Regional Office from 0600 to 1800 daily. The Desk is serving as a centralized communications base for all affected staff and offices.

***HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION DESK**

PHONE NUMBER: 505-248-6508 FAX: 505-248-6475

Employees may check for pre-recorded information on the Region's 24-Hour Emergency Phone Line at:

***24-Hour Employee Emergency Hotline: 505-248-6543**

NOTE: Any media inquiries may be coordinated by External Affairs: 505-248-6911

Daily updates will be completed by COB each day and press releases issued as necessary.

END OF REPORT

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